REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 1-4. Claim 1 has been amended to better define the invention. Support for the claims may be found, *inter alia*, in the disclosure at page 5. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tennby et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,471,804* in view of *Shimizu et al. EP 0 818 188* and *Inselmann U.S. Patent No. 5,271,997*.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As explained in Applicant's previous responses to Office Actions, Applicant's method as set forth in claim 1 as amended, strips (composed of a carrier and a material that is laminated on, having closure elements in the form of loops or hooks) are merely basted onto the material in a first method step. Basting takes place thermally, without application of pressure. Claim 1 has now been amended herein to clarify that the materials are

locally connected by means of ultrasound bonding. Local fixation by means of ultrasound bonding takes place without any application of pressure to the layers to be connected. The more general term "thermobonding" previously appearing in claim 1 has been deleted.

As recited in claim 1 as amended, in a second, spatially separate workstation, a firm connection between the strips and the material web is subsequently produced, by means of cold pressing. During cold pressing, the materials are firmly connected with one another, over their area, by applying great pressure without any action of temperature. Cold pressing leads to a material-fit connection that is based on the plastic deformation of the materials as the result of the pressing process.

The primary reference to *Tennby et al.* describes a method for attaching strips to a continuous material web by means of ultrasound bonding. Two ultrasound bonding stations are provided, whereby in a first ultrasound bonding station, the strips are merely fixed in place on the material web with a small number of bonding points, in other words secured to prevent them

from slipping, and whereby the strips are subsequently firmly connected with the material web in a second ultrasound bonding station, with a greater number of bonding points. In *Tennby et al.'s* method, attachment of the strips to the material web takes place exclusively thermally, by means of ultrasound bonding. Other attachment possibilities are excluded. It is respectfully submitted that *Tennby et al.* fails to disclose or suggest or provide any indication or inspiration to a person skilled in the art to attach strips to the material web by using pressure.

The defects and deficiencies of the primary reference to *Tennby et al.* are nowhere remedied by the secondary references to *Shimizu et al.* and *Inselmann*. As the Examiner has recognized, *Shimizu et al.* is relied on only to show hook fastener tapes, not the method steps as recited in Applicant's claim 1 as amended. As discussed in Applicant's Amendment filed October 6, 2008, and as tacitly conceded by the Examiner, there is no disclosure or suggestion of producing a full area connection by means of cold pressing after only slight basting.

Inselmann describes a device for connecting textile planar structures with a rotating processing table. On the processing

table, collars, cuffs, and similar clothing articles can be produced from pre-cut planar pieces. The *Inselmann* device cannot be used to apply strips to a continuous material web from which baby diapers are produced.

The rotating table of *Inselmann* has a support disk 23 as well as a cover disk 26, whereby the cover disk 26 is flexible and completely covers the rotating table. In a station 27, the cover disk 26 is made to bulge out, whereby the support disk is exposed at this location, so that the parts to be connected can be laid on and finished products can be taken out again. See FIGS. 1 and 2 and column 3, lines 55 to 63 of *Inselmann*.

The planar pieces that lie on top of one another and are to be connected with one another are situated between the cover disk 26 and the support disk 23. The planar piece parts are secured to prevent them from slipping, by means of the cover disk 26 that lies on them. Therefore, there is no need to secure the planar pieces that are to be connected, by means of local ultrasound bonding.

At the circumference of the rotating table, pressing stations are disposed, which act on the outside of the cover disk, in each instance. In a hot-pressing station 45, the material layers to be connected with one another are firmly connected with one another, over their full area, by means of pressure and heat. In addition, a cold-pressing station 63 can be provided. In the end result, *Inselmann* discloses a method in which the parts to be connected with one another are subjected to a two-step pressing process, whereby the first pressing stage is designed as a hot-pressing stage, and the second pressing stage is designed as a cold-pressing stage.

In summary, there are therefore the following differences between *Inselmann* and Applicant's method as set forth in claim 1 as amended:

a) *Inselmann* describes a device having a rotating table, which device is not suitable for attaching strips to a continuous material web.

b) A flexible disk is disposed on the rotating table according to *Inselmann*, which disk covers the rotating table and

secures the parts that lie on the rotating table and are to be connected with one another to prevent them from slipping. It is therefore unnecessary to locally connect the planar pieces to be connected with one another, by means of ultrasound bonding.

c) Pressing stations are disposed on the circumference of the rotating table. *Inselmann* therefore at most describes a method for connecting planar parts with one another in a two-stage pressing process, whereby the temperature and the pressing pressures in the pressing stages are selected to be different.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that *Inselmann*, whether considered alone or in combination with *Tennby et al.* and *Shimizu et al.*, fails to give a person skilled in the art any inspiration to combine ultrasound bonding with cold pressing.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as amended, together with claims 2-4 which depend directly or indirectly thereon, are patentable over the cited references.

In summary, claim 1 has been amended. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
Christoph WILLING

COLLARD & ROE, P.C.
1077 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, New York 11576
(516) 365-9802

Frederick J. Dorchak, Reg. No.29,298
Attorneys for Applicant

FJD:cmm

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 22, 2009.

Amy Klein

R:\Patents\W\WILLING-1 PCT\RCE\Amendment in Response to First OA in RCE.wpd